

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 00471 140343Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-06 /024 W

----- 085345

R 130927Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2136

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL MSURABAYA

DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0471

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (RANDALL WILLIAM J.)

SUBJ: VISIT OF CODEL RANDALL

1. SUMMARY. DURING VISIT TO JAKARTA JAN 6-8, DELEGATION OF 12 HOUSE MEMBERS HEADED BY REP. WILLIAM J. RANDALL MET WITH UNUSUALLY WIDE RANGE OF TOP INDONESIAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRESIDENT SOEHARTO. HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT GIVEN CODEL REFLECTS GROWING GOI APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANT ROLE OF CONGRESS AND NEED TO IMPROVE CONGRESSIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF INDONESIAN NEEDS AND POLICIES. FOR MOST PART GOI OFFICIALS STRESSED FAMILIAR THEMES OF SELF-RELIANCE, NATIONAL RESILIENCE, REGIONAL COOPERATION, AND PRIMACY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS MEANS OF ASSURING INDONESIA'S SECURITY AND STABILITY. CODEL EXPLAINED CONTINUING US INTEREST IN ASIA, NOTWITHSTANDING FALL OF INDOCHINA, BUT ALSO POINTED OUT GROWING DIFFICULTY OF ELICITING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND UNHELPFULNESS OF STATEMENTS BY ASIAN LEADERS CRITICAL OF US MILITARY PRESENCE IN AREA. DISCUSSION OF TIMOR LIMITED TO BRIEF EXCHANGES DURING MEETINGS WITH GEN. YOGA AND FONMIN MALIK. END SUMMARY.

2. CODEL VISIT SERVED TO RECIPROCATATE OCT 1975 WASHINGTON VISIT OF GOI DELEGATION HEADED BY PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ALI
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PAGE 02 JAKART 00471 140343Z

MOERTOPO THAT MET WITH MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS INCLUDING

SOME OF THOSE INCLUDED IN CODEL RANDALL. IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT SOEHARTO, CODEL WAS RECEIVED BY MOERTOPO, DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN, FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK, INTELLIGENCE CHIEF YOGA, AND GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS HEADED BY DPR SPEAKER IDHAM CHALID. MEETING WITH MOERTOPO TOOK PLACE AT CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS) WITH PARTICIPATION OF GROUP OF 11 SENIOR CSIS STAFFERS, NEWSPAPER EDITORS, AND ASSORTED OTHER IMPORTANT FIGURES IN YOUTH, WOMEN'S, CULTURAL, AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS. DURING CODEL'S CALL AT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY, MINISTER PANGGABEAN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY APPROXIMATELY 20 SENIOR OFFICERS INCLUDING GEN. SURONO, LT. GEN. HASNAN HABIB AND LT. GEN SAYIDIMAN (HEAD OF NATIONAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE). IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS WITH GOI OFFICIALS, CODEL ALSO RECEIVED TWO-HOUR COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING.

3. PRESIDENT SOEHARTO, ALONG WITH MOST OTHER GOI OFFICIALS WHO MET WITH CODEL, EMPHASIZED INDONESIAN CONCEPT OF NATIONAL RESILIENCE, NOTING THAT GOI BELIEVED THAT TO SAFEGUARD NATIONAL SECURITY, PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO IMPROVEMENT OF POPULAR WELFARE AND STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION AMONG ASEAN STATES. IN THESE ENDEAVORS, GOI NEEDED AND WELCOMED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUT AT SAME TIME RECOGNIZED THAT IT MUST RELY PRIMARILY ON ITS OWN EFFORTS.

4. GEN. YOGA DESCRIBED INCREASED THREAT OF SUBVERSION AND INSURGENCY TO INDONESIA AND OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES AS RESULT OF FALL OF INDOCHINA, NOTING PARTICULARLY THAT INDONESIA WOULD WELCOME US ASSISTANCE IN STRENGTHENING SURVEILLANCE OF ITS NORTHERN COASTLINES. HE ADDED THAT ASEAN NATIONS DESIRED "OFFSHORE" US PRESENCE AS NECESSARY BACK-UP TO THEIR OWN DEFENSE MEASURES. AT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, CODEL RECEIVED LENGTHY BRIEFING ON "NATIONAL RESILIENCE" PLUS SHORT REVIEW OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WHICH NOTED "DIFFICULTIES" SUCH AS FREQUENT CHANGES IN PLANNED FUNDING LEVELS.;179, WWKYIF POINT CONGRESSMAN RANDALL OBSERVED THAT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, ON WHICH HENRY J. DODD SEVERAL CODEL MEMBERS SERVED, NOW HAD OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKARTA 00471 140343Z

THAT ONE PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS TO OBTAIN FIRSTHAND INFORMATION THAT WOULD ASSIST COMMITTEE IN IMPROVING SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

5. WHILE POINTING OUT THAT US WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE INTEREST IN ASIA DESPITE FALL OF VIETNAM, CODEL MEMBERS NOTED DECLINING PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM FOR FOREIGN AID AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT STATEMENTS BY THAI AND PHILIPPINE LEADERS CALLING FOR

REMOVAL OF US BASES FROM REGION. BOTH GEN. YOGA AND FONMIN MALIK COMMENTED THAT THAI, AND PARTICULARLY PHILIPPINE, LEADERS HAD INITIALLY OVERREACTED TO FALL OF INDOCHINA BUT NOW SEEMED TO BE TAKING MORE BALANCED VIEW. THEY ENDORSED CONTINUED US MILITARY PRESENCE IN REGION, NOTING THAT SEVENTH FLEET PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, BUT POINTED OUT THAT BASES AND TROOPS WERE IN GOI VIEW NOT MOST USEFUL WAY FOR US TO ASSIST ASEAN COUNTRIES IN COPING WITH SUBVERSIVE THREAT.

6. ATHYEETING WITH MALIK. CONGRESSMAN WILSON POINTED OUT THAT RECENT UN VOTE ON GUAM WAS SORT OF ACTION THAT MADE IT DIFFICULT TO WIN SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN AID. MALIK'S REPLY WAS THAT IN SUCH MATTERS MANY THIRD WORLD NATIONS VOTE ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND THAT IN INDONESIA'S VIEW RECENT GUAM RESOLUTION UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY PRACTICAL EFFECT.

7. IN RESPONSE TO CODEL QUESTIONS ON TIMOR, GEN. YOGA SAID THAT GOI COULD ACCEPT INDEPENDENT TIMOR AS LONG AS TIMOR "NOT HOSTILE" AND "DOES NOT POSE SECURITY THREAT TO INDONESIA." FONMIN MALIK VOLUNTEERED SHORT REVIEW OF TIMOR SITUATION IN WHICH HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGE GOI INTERVENTION BUT STATED THAT GOI ACTIONS IN TIMOR HAD BEEN DICTATED NOT BY DESIRE FOR TERRITORIAL AGGRANDIZEMENT BUT OUT OF CONCERN FOR THREAT TO NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY WHICH HAD DEVELOPED AS RESULT OF FRETELIN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE ITS WILL BY FORCE ON REST OF TIMORESE POPULATION.

8. CODEL RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL ATTENTION IN LOCAL PRESS, WITH PAPERS GIVING FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE TO GROUP'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SOEHARTO. NEWSPAPER STORIES STRESSED REP. RANDALL'S STATEMENT TO PRESS FOLLOWING CALL ON SOEHARTO THAT CODEL NOW HAD BETTER APPRECIATION OF MEANING OF NATIONAL RESILIENCE.

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PAGE 04 JAKART 00471 140343Z

9. IN ADDITION TO ACTIVITIES MENTIONED ABOVE, ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS WERE ARRANGED FOR CODEL MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL INTERESTS. REP. SCHEUER RECEIVED BRIEFING ON HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING AND OBSERVED GOI FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES ON BALI. REPS. VAN DEERLIN AND SKUXSTZ CALLED ON PRESIDENT OF MOBIL INDONESIA TO HEAR ABOUT ARUN NATURAL GAS PROJECT. REP. MILFORD MET WITH OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND WEATHER BUREAU.

10. MEMCONS OF CODEL MEETINGS TOGETHER WITH CLIPPINGS FROM LOCAL PRESS BEING TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JAKART00471
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760163/aaaacdwt.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF CODEL RANDALL
TAGS: OREP, (RANDALL WILLIAM J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006